

1 What is Claimed is:

2 1. A compressible structure for temporarily protecting a glass pane of a window
3 structure comprising
4 a shaping member for removable securement on the window structure and defining
5 a cavity over the glass pane; and
6 a layer of solidified compressible material in said cavity providing protection for the
7 glass pane.

8 2. A compressible structure as recited in claim 1 and further including a port in
9 said shaping member communicating with said cavity by which said compressible material
10 is supplied to said cavity in fluidic form and solidifies within said cavity.

11 3. A compressible structure as recited in claim 2 wherein said compressible
12 material is a polymeric foam.

13 4. A compressible structure as recited in claim 1 and further including a securing
14 element for removably securing said compressible structure on the window structure.

15 5. A compressible structure as recited in claim 4 wherein said securing element
16 includes a releaseable adhesive carried by said shaping member.

1 6. A compressible structure as recited in claim 4 wherein said compressible
2 structure has an external perimeter and said securing element includes one or more
3 securing devices interposed between said perimeter and the window structure.

4 7. A compressible structure as recited in claim 4 wherein said securing element
5 includes one or more securing devices each including an attachment member and a clip,
6 said attachment member having a planar base for being releaseably, adhesively secured
7 to the glass pane and a pin extending perpendicularly from said base for penetrating said
8 compressible structure so that a forward end of said pin protrudes from said compressible
9 structure, said clip including an opening for receiving said forward end therethrough in
10 releasable locking engagement to retain said compressible structure between said clip and
11 said base.

12 8. A compressible structure as recited in claim 3 wherein said shaping member
13 includes a front wall, a back wall for being disposed adjacent to the glass pane and one
14 or more side walls connecting said front and back walls, said cavity being defined between
15 said front and back walls.

16 9. A compressible structure as recited in claim 8 wherein said back wall is made
17 of a sponge material.

1 10. A compressible structure as recited in claim 8 wherein said back wall includes
2 spaced layers and a cushioning structure between said layers.

3 11. A compressible structure as recited in claim 10 wherein said cushioning
4 structure includes a plurality of air cells unit.

5 12. A compressible structure as recited in claim 10 wherein said cushioning
6 structure includes a plurality of polymeric particles.

7 13. A compressible structure as recited in claim 8 and further including a
8 cushioning element carried by said back wall.

9 14. A compressible structure as recited in claim 8 wherein said compressible
10 material is a releaseably adherable material and further including an opening in said
11 shaping member by which said compressible material in fluidic form contacts the window
12 structure to releaseably adhere said shaping member to the window structure when said
13 compressible material solidifies.

14 15. A compressible structure as recited in claim 8 wherein said front wall is made
15 of a high strength, impact resistant material.

1 16. A compressible structure as recited in claim 3 wherein said shaping member
2 includes a front wall and one or more side walls extending rearwardly from said front wall
3 to contact the window structure, said front wall being spaced from the glass pane by said
4 one or more side walls, said cavity being defined between said front wall and said glass
5 pane.

6 17. A compressible structure as recited in claim 1 wherein said layer of solidified
7 compressible material includes a first layer of a first solidified compressible material and
8 a second layer of a second solidified compressible material disposed over said first layer,
9 said first and second solidified compressible materials being of different densities.

10 18. A compressible structure as recited in claim 17 wherein said first solidified
11 compressible material is of greater density than said second solidified compressible
12 material.

13 19. A compressible structure as recited in claim 18 wherein said second layer of
14 said second solidified compressible material is disposed between the glass pane and said
15 first layer of said first solidified compressible material.

16 20. A compressible structure as recited in claim 1 wherein said layer of solidified
17 compressible material has a thickness in the range of 0.5 inch to 12.0 inches.

1 21. A compressible structure as recited in claim 20 wherein said layer of solidified
2 compressible material has a thickness in the range of 1.0 inch to 4.0 inches.

3 22. A compressible structure as recited in claim 1 wherein said shaping member
4 is adjustable in external size in response to a variation in the amount of said solidified
5 compressible material in said cavity.

6 23. A window protection system for temporarily protecting a glass pane of a
7 window structure comprising

8 a shaping member for removable securement on a window structure and
9 defining a cavity over the glass pane;

10 a port in said shaping member establishing communication with said cavity
11 of externally of said shaping member; and

12 a supply system including a quantity of compressible material in fluid form
13 and a delivery device for supplying said compressible material in fluid form through said
14 port and into said cavity, said compressible material in fluid form solidifying within said
15 cavity to form a layer of solidified compressible material, thereby forming a compressible
16 structure, defined by said shaping member and said layer of solidified compressible
17 material, over the glass pane to provide protection thereto.

1 24. A window protection system as recited in claim 23 wherein said compressible
2 material is a polymeric foam.

3 25. A window protection system as recited in claim 24 and further including a
4 securing element for removably securing said shaping member on said window structure.

5 26. A window protection system as recited in claim 25 wherein said securing
6 element includes an adhesive.

7 27. A window protection system as recited in claim 25 wherein said securing
8 element includes one or more mechanical securing devices.

9 28. A window protection system as recited in claim 23 wherein said quantity of
10 compressible material in fluid form includes a quantity of a first compressible material in
11 fluid form forming a first layer of a first solidified compressible material having a first
12 density and a quantity of a second compressible material in fluid form for forming a second
13 layer of a second compressible material having a second density greater than said first
14 density.

15 29. A temporarily protected window structure comprising
16 a window structure having a glass pane mounted in a frame; and

1 a compressible structure removably secured on said window structure and
2 including a panel of solidified compressible foam material disposed over said glass pane
3 to protect said glass pane from damage due to storms.

4 30. A protected window structure as recited in claim 29 and further including a
5 securing element for removably securing said compressible structure on said window
6 structure.

7 31. A protected window structure as recited in claim 30 wherein said securing
8 element includes an adhesive.

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10 32. A protected window structure as recited in claim 30 wherein said securing
11 element includes one or more mechanical securing devices.

12 33. A protected window structure as recited in claim 32 wherein said
13 compressible structure has an external perimeter and said one or more securing devices
14 are interposed between said perimeter and said window structure.

15 34. A protected window structure as recited in claim 32 wherein said one or more
16 securing devices each include an attachment member and a clip, said attachment member
17 have a planar base for being releasably, adhesively secured to the glass pane and a pin

1 extending perpendicularly from said base for penetrating said compressible structure so
2 that a forward end of said pin protrudes from said compressible structure, said clip
3 including an opening for receiving said forward end therethrough in locking engagement
4 to retain said compressible structure between said clip and said base.

5 35. A protected window structure as recited in claim 30 wherein said panel of
6 solidified compressible material includes a first layer of a first solidified compressible
7 material having a first density and a second layer of a second solidified compressible
8 material disposed over said first layer and having a second density greater than said first
9 density.

10 36. A protected window structure as recited in claim 35 wherein said first layer
11 is disposed between said second layer and said glass pane.

12 37. A method of temporarily protecting a glass pane of a window structure in a
13 building from storm damage, comprising the steps of

14 before a storm arrives, releasably securing a pre-formed panel of solidified
15 compressible material over the glass pane;

16 leaving the panel in place during the storm to protect the glass pane from damage;

17 and

18 after the storm has passed, removing the panel from the glass pane.

1 38. A method of temporarily protecting a glass pane as recited in claim 37
2 wherein said step of releasably securing includes adhesively securing the panel to the
3 glass pane.

4 39. A method of temporarily protecting a glass pane as recited in claim 37
5 wherein said step of releasably securing includes positioning one or more securing devices
6 between the window structure and an external perimeter of the panel.

7 40. A method of temporarily protecting a glass pane as recited in claim 37
8 wherein said step of releasably securing includes the steps of inserting a pin of an
9 attachment member through the panel so that a base of the attachment member abuts a
10 back surface of the panel and a forward end of the pin protrudes from a forward surface
11 of the panel, positioning a clip on the forward end of the pin to releasably, lockingly retain
12 the panel between the clip and the base, and releasably attaching the base to the window
13 structure.

14 41. A method of temporarily protecting a glass pane as recited in claim 40
15 wherein said step of releasably attaching includes releasably attaching the base to the
16 window structure adhesively.

42. The method of temporarily protecting a glass pane as recited in claim 37 and further including, subsequent to said step of removing, the step of storing the panel for reuse.

43. A method of temporarily protecting a glass pane of a window structure in a building from storm damage, comprising the steps of

before a storm arrives, removably securing a shaping member on the window structure so that a cavity defined by the shaping member is disposed over at least a portion of the glass pane;

supplying a fluidic compressible material to the cavity;

allowing the fluidic compressible material to cure and form a layer of solidified compressible material thereby forming a compressible structure over at least a portion of the glass pane;

leaving the compressible structure in place during the storm to protect the window structure from damage; and

after the storm has passed, removing the compressible structure from the window structure.